

Appl. No. 10/658,470
Amendment dated March 28, 2005
Reply to Office action of December 28, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-4, 9 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) An method for forming an image ~~by heating~~ comprising heating an exposed a photothermographic material, which has been imagewise exposed to light using with a thermal developing device, wherein

the thermal developing device comprises a filter for collecting volatilized substances, and

the photothermographic material comprises a substrate and a composition ~~disposed provided~~ thereon and is formed by applying to the substrate a coating solution containing the composition and a solvent which contains 30% by mass or more of water and then drying, wherein:

the composition comprises a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent for thermal development and a binder; wherein ~~each of any~~ organic compounds in the composition ~~comprised~~ in an amount of approximately 0.05 g/m² or more ~~in the composition~~ has a volatilization remaining ratio of 50% or more at 160°C; and

the time for thermal development is in a range of 7 to 15 seconds.

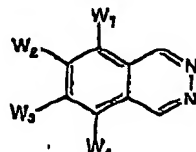
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6. (original) An image forming method according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the organic compounds is represented by the following general formula (I):

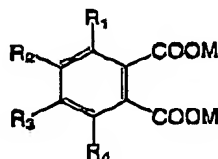
General formula (I)



wherein each of W₁ to W₄ independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, and at least one of W₁ to W₄ is a monovalent substituent.

7.(original) An image forming method according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the organic compounds is represented by the following general formula (II):

General formula (II)

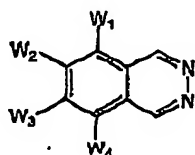


wherein each of R₁ to R₄ independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, and when three out of R₁ to R₄ are hydrogen atoms, a remaining monovalent substituent is a group other than a methyl group; and M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkali earth metal, an ammonium group, or a phosphonium group.

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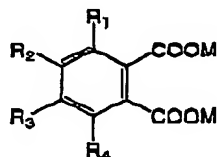
8. (original) An image forming method according to claim 5, wherein the photothermographic material comprises at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by the following general formula (I) and at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by the following general formula (II):

General formula (I)



wherein each of W_1 to W_4 independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, and at least one of W_1 to W_4 is a monovalent substituent:

General formula (II)



wherein each of R_1 to R_4 independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, and when three out of R_1 to R_4 are hydrogen atoms, a remaining monovalent substituent is a group other than a methyl group; and M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkali earth metal, an ammonium group, or a phosphonium group.